



The Missouri Triple Slam

It is hard to believe that spring is finally here. Turkeys are gobbling, crappie are biting and mushroom hunters are beginning to find a few mushrooms in the woods. For most avid turkey hunters, spring turkey hunting simply can't be beat. Many eager turkey hunters spend early mornings listening for turkeys, and late nights dreaming about that strutting gobbler coming into their decoys on opening morning.

Turkey hunting has become one of the most exciting and challenging hunting sports in the United States. In Missouri the sport has made unbelievable progress. The first turkey season opened in 1960 after being closed for 23 years. The season lasted 3 days and was open in only 13 counties. A total of 94 turkeys were harvested. Since that time, populations of wild turkeys have flourished, not only in Missouri, but throughout North America. Missouri turkey hunters now harvest nearly 60,000 turkeys every year and the Missouri turkey population is estimated to be around 600,000 birds. Both the number of turkeys harvested and the estimated total population make Missouri one of the best turkey hunting states in the USA.

As we all know, success sometimes leads to competition, and turkey hunting is no different. Many can remember when you were considered successful to see or hear a turkey, but now turkey hunting success is measured in a whole new light. What I am referring to are turkey hunting "slams". There are five subspecies of the wild turkey in the United States: Eastern, Merriam's, Florida Osceola, Rio Grande and Gould's. Hunters now try to complete a turkey hunting slam by harvesting one of each of these subspecies of turkeys. Fortunately, you do not have to harvest them all in a single year. These turkey hunting slams are great for the sport of turkey hunting and demonstrate how far turkey hunting has come in sixty years.



However, these slams are costly and the average turkey hunter does not have the money, time and right connections to ever dream of completing a turkey hunting slam. In an effort to come up with a new challenge for Missouri outdoorsmen, The Missouri Triple Slam may be right up your alley. This slam is challenging, realistic, attainable, and you don't have to spend your savings or take a long vacation to achieve it. This slam incorporates three of Missouri's favorite springtime activities: turkey hunting, crappie fishing, and mushroom hunting. The Missouri Triple Slam can be completed by harvesting a turkey, catching crappie, and finding mushrooms all in the same day. The reward is a sense of accomplishment for your outdoor skill and a wonderful meal for supper that evening.

The Missouri Triple Slam is not a cakewalk. You will have to rely on ideal weather conditions, hunting and fishing skill, and knowledge of the woods to successfully complete the slam. However, I believe the Missouri Triple Slam will give the average Missouri outdoorsman or woman a chance to measure their outdoor prowess by completing a unique slam of their own, while enjoying the finest that Missouri spring has to offer. Good luck, and have fun!

KEVIN EULINGER, conservation agent



Ten Years, Ten Reasons to Celebrate!

Our Visitor Center is ten years old next month, so save the date! Join us on Sunday May 4, 2014 from noon–6 p.m. to celebrate the Howard and Joyce Wood Visitor and Education Center at Columbia Bottom Conservation Area. We'll have indoor and outdoor activities for everyone. Look for the details in next month's Conservation Connections. Columbia Bottom is where you discover nature.

Jay Henges Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

1100 Antire Road, High Ridge, MO 63049 • mdc.mo.gov/node/299



From the east/St. Louis
I-44 west to Beaumont Antire Road, exit 269. Left over I-44 to Antire Road. Right on Antire. One hundred feet to entrance. Left into driveway.

From the west/Eureka
I-44 east to Beaumont Antire Road, exit 269. Follow exit lane around to top.

HOURS:

May 1–August 31

Wednesday: 1–7:30 p.m.

Thursday–Sunday: 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

September 1–April 30

Wednesday–Sunday: 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Programs are free. Call **636-938-9548** or email henges.range@mdc.mo.gov with your name and phone number to sign up for a program requiring registration. Up to two reservations are allowed per registration; groups should contact the range for more information. If you are unable to attend, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

Wild Turkey Calling Clinic

April 1 • Tuesday • 6–8 p.m.

(Ages 6 and up)

Discover how exciting turkey calling can be at this informative workshop. We will discuss calling tips and techniques for beginners as well as advanced instruction. We will then discuss how to apply calling in real turkey hunting situations, exploring different scenarios that hunters often encounter. Under age 16 must be accompanied by an adult. (Reservations begin March 1.)

Introduction to Traditional and Pop-up Turkey Blinds

April 2 • Wednesday • 5:30–8 p.m.

(Ages 6 and up)

Perhaps nothing is more frustrating to a hunter than being discovered. When a target sees you, smells you or notices you moving, it won't be long before it disappears. One way to get an advantage over your prey is to use hunting blinds. We will discuss some traditional blind construction, modern pop-up and stationary blind types, along with placement and safety. Anyone under age 16 must be accompanied by an adult. (Reservations begin March 2.)

Women's Beginning Handgun, Parts 1 and 2

April 3 and 5 • Thursday • 6–8 p.m.

and • Saturday • 7:30–9:30 a.m.

(Ages 16 and up)

This two-part women's program will include handgun operation, shooting fundamentals, safety, maintenance, and safe storage. We start with a classroom session on Thursday evening, then a live-fire session on Saturday morning. Although equipment and ammunition will be provided, you may bring your own handgun and ammunition to the Saturday morning live-fire session. Anyone under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult. (Reservations begin March 3.)

Beginning Rifle

April 6 • Sunday • 2–6 p.m.

(Ages 9 and up)

This program will include rifle operation, shooting fundamentals, safety, maintenance, and safe storage. We start with a classroom session and then move to the range for live-firing. Although equipment and ammunition will be provided, you may bring your own to the live-fire session. Anyone under age 16 must be accompanied by an adult. (Reservations start on March 6.)

Introduction to Map and Compass

April 12 • Saturday • 1–3:30 p.m.

(Ages 11 and up)

This is an introductory program for outdoor direction finding, whether hunting, hiking, backpacking, or any outdoor activities off the beaten path. Learn how to use a topographical map and the proper use of a navigation style compass. Dress for the weather, we'll be outside for part of this program. Effort=Mild. (Reservations begin March 12.)

Trigger Time–Handgun

April 13 • Sunday • 8:30–9:30 a.m.

(Ages 18 and up)

Trigger Time is "hands-on" personal instruction designed to make you a better marksman. There is no classroom time, just expert one-on-one instruction. Participants are required to provide their own handguns and ammunition, at least 100 rounds. This program is not appropriate for beginners. (Reservations begin March 13.)

Youth .22 Rifle

April 26 • Saturday • 8–9:30 a.m.

(Ages 9–15)

Interested young people who have no experience shooting .22 rifles are invited to participate in this session on learning safety and the proper techniques of shooting .22 caliber rimfire rifles in a controlled, safe environment. Firearms, ammunition, and safety equipment are provided. (Reservations begin March 26.)

Beginning Archery

April 30 • Wednesday • 6–7:30 p.m.

(Families)

Learn the fundamentals of shooting the bow and arrow based on the Missouri National Archery in the Schools Program (MoNASP). This is a fun program for the family, ages fourth grade and up. All equipment will be provided. Effort=Mild. (Reservations begin March 30.)

Busch Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304 • mdc.mo.gov/node/270



Women's Firearm Sampler

April 9 • Wednesday • 6–9 p.m.

April 10 • Thursday • 6–9 p.m.

(Ages 16 and up)

New to firearms, or want to learn more about shooting sports? This two part course will teach the basics of different firearms, and how to safely use them. The classroom portion will be held on Wednesday at the Busch Conservation Area Regional Office classroom. The class portion will teach safety, the basic firearm actions, safeties, stance, aiming, and more. On Thursday we head to the range and try out the different firearms. All firearms and ammunition are provided. You must attend the classroom portion in order to attend the range portion. (Reservations begin March 10.)

Youth .22 Pistol

April 12 • Saturday • 7:30–9:30 a.m.

(Ages 11–15)

This program will teach the basic skills and safety used in the activity of pistol shooting. We will start with a clinic teaching safety, parts of the pistol, grip, stance, aiming and more. This will be followed by some live fire action. This program will be at the August A. Busch Shooting Range. All firearms and ammunition will be provided. All youth must be accompanied by an adult. (Reservations begin March 12.)

Basic Archery

April 15 • Tuesday • 6–8 p.m.

(Ages 10 and up)

This program provides students with an opportunity to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to safely participate in this fun and rewarding outdoor activity. Our instructors will help all participants develop their archery skills as we cover types of bows, parts of the bow and arrow, proper stance, grip, form, release, and other important tips and techniques. Children ages 10–16 must be accompanied by an adult. This course will take place at the August A. Busch Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center Broadhead Pits. (Reservations begin March 17.)

Basic Trap

April 16 • Wednesday • 6–8 p.m.

April 17 • Thursday • 6–8 p.m.

(Ages 12 and up)

This program is designed for those who have some experience with shotguns, want to improve their skill level and learn the finer points of 16 yard American Trap. On Wednesday this program will take place at the Busch Conservation Area Regional Office classrooms. The classroom portion will cover safety, appropriate shotguns, correct fit, gauge and ammunition selection, proper stance, chokes, mount, movement, hold points, and more. Thursday we will meet at the August A. Busch Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center. Firearms, ammunition, and safety equipment are provided, or you may bring your own. Children ages 12–16 must be accompanied by an adult. (Reservations begin March 17.)



From I-64/40 take Hwy 94 south to Hwy D; turn west on Hwy D for approximately 5 miles. The area entrance is on the south side of Hwy D.

HOURS:

December 1–March 31

Monday, Tuesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday: 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

April 1–November 30

Monday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday: 10 a.m.–4 p.m. and Tuesday: 2–8 p.m.

Programs are free. Call **636-441-4554** to register Monday through Friday 8 a.m.–5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

Basic Handgun

April 23 • Wednesday • 6–9 p.m.

April 24 • Thursday • 6–8 p.m.

(Ages 16 and up)

This program is designed to teach students how to safely and successfully handle and shoot a handgun. Wednesday will be the clinic at the Busch Conservation Area Regional Office classrooms, where we will discuss safety, various handgun actions, calibers, grip, stance, sight picture and more. On Thursday we will meet at Busch Shooting Range for some live fire practice. We will provide .22 handguns and ammunition for the live fire. This is a basic handgun class. You must attend the clinic in order to participate in the live fire session. (Reservations begin March 24.)

Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122 • mdc.mo.gov/node/271



From I-44 east take the Watson Road exit and turn left on Geyer. Cross over the bridge and turn left on Cragwold

HOURS:

Building: Tuesday–Saturday: 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Area: Daily: 8 a.m.–8 p.m. DST

8 a.m.–6 p.m. CST

Programs are free. Call **314-301-1500** to register. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

Amphibian Night at Forest 44

April 11 • Friday • 7:30–10 p.m.

(All ages)

Join us as MDC Herpetologist, Jeff Briggler, teaches about native amphibians. Learn how to identify different species and calls before venturing out to the ponds of Forest 44 in search of chorusing frogs. Meet at the Jay Henges Shooting Range Outdoor Education Center, located at Highway 44 and Beaumont/Antire Road. Please dress for the weather and wear clothes and shoes that can get wet and muddy. (Reservations begin March 28.)

Scout Discovery Table: Flowers and Trees

April 12 • Saturday • 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

(All Ages)

Activities available at this table apply toward Webelos: Outdoor Group: Forester 3, 4; Brownies: Hiker Badge;

Juniors: Gardener Badge, Flowers Badge, and Camper Badge; and Cadets: Trees Badge. (Registration is not required.)

Hike with a Naturalist

April 15 • Tuesday • 9:30–11:30 a.m.

(Ages 4–7)

Spring is here at last! Discover what is budding, blooming, and hatching. We will meet at the nature center and then take a 1/2 mile hike on beautiful Hickory Ridge Trail. After the hike, you can make a nature craft to take home. (Reservations begin April 1.)

Wonderful Woodpeckers

April 22 • Tuesday • 9:30–11 a.m.

(Ages 4 and up)

Why are woodpeckers wonderful? They are beautifully adapted with special tools. Their head, beak, tongue, and tail help them eat bugs that live inside trees. (Reservations begin April 8.)

Powder Valley Conservation Day Camp Application

June 17 • Tuesday–June 20 • Friday • 9 a.m.–3:30 p.m. and June 21 • Saturday • 9–11:30 a.m.

(Ages 8–13)

Conservation Day Camp is four fun-filled days of conservation programs ranging from archery and fishing to dissecting owl pellets. On Saturday, parents/legal guardians will be asked to attend camp from 9–11:30 a.m. to learn about Missouri's fish, forests and wildlife from their child!

Conservation Day Camp is limited to 30 campers. Applications will be accepted through April 19, 2014. Participants will be chosen by a lottery drawing and will be notified via phone by April 25, 2014. Parents will receive a complete schedule of events and permission forms prior to the beginning of camp. Daily attendance is expected and parent/legal guardian participation on Saturday is strongly encouraged.

One family per application. Thank you. Please complete this form and return to:

Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center
Conservation Day Camp
11715 Cragwold Rd.
Kirkwood, MO 63122

T-SHIRT SIZE CHART

SIZE	S	M	L	XL
YOUTH	6-8	10-12	14-16	18-20
WOMEN	4-6	8-10	12-14	16-18
MEN	34-36	38-40	42-44	46-48

Child's Name

Age

T-Shirt Size

Parent/Legal Guardian Name

Address

Cell/Daytime Phone

Home Phone

Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122 • mdc.mo.gov/node/271

Celebrating Edgar Denison

Author of Missouri Wildflowers

Edgar Denison is being honored this month by the City of Kirkwood and Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center. The nature center is hosting the following events in honor of Denison.

Powder Valley Hallway Exhibit

Edgar Denison Original Botanical Artwork

Opening Reception

April 5 • Saturday • 6–8 p.m.

(All ages)

(Reservations begin immediately.)

Nature Drawing Class

April 12 • Saturday • 10 a.m.–noon

(Families)

Enjoy nature through art with local art teacher Susan Voelpel. Art supplies will be provided. (Reservations begin March 28.)

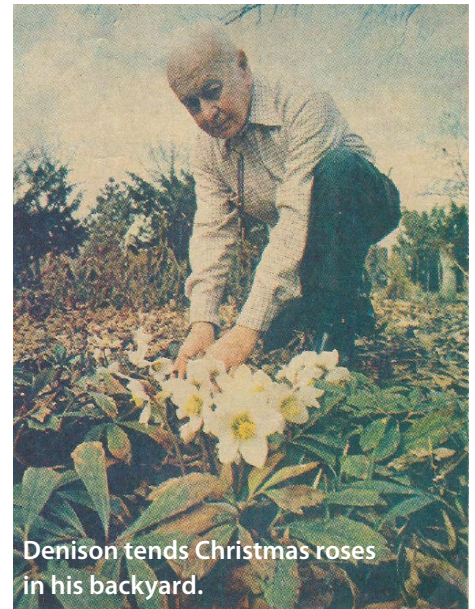
Gallery Talk

April 22 • Tuesday • 6–6:45 p.m.

or 7–7:45 p.m.

(All ages)

Join Carlene Fullerton, retired museum educator from the Saint Louis Art Museum, as she discusses the work of Edgar Denison. Please register for only one of the two sessions. (Reservations begin April 8.)



Denison tends Christmas roses in his backyard.

Forest Park Office

5595 Grand Drive, St. Louis, MO 63112 • mdc.mo.gov/node/10254

Plant Ecology

April 22 • Tuesday • 10 a.m.–noon

(Ages 6-12)

This is the last class in the Homeschool Series. Even if you haven't joined us for the other classes you are welcome to attend. Missouri plant life, its relationship to and interactions with the environment, is our focus. Lessons and activities are divided into two age groups; 6-9 years and 10-12 years. This class will meet at the Dennis & Judith Jones Visitor and Education Center in Forest Park. (Reservations open.)

HOURS:

Monday–Friday: 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Programs are free. Call **314-877-1309** to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.



From I-44 take Kingshighway north to West Pine Blvd, turn left. Follow West Pine to Lindell, turn left. Continue on Lindell past Union Drive to Cricket, turn left. Take first right onto Grand Ave. The visitor's center is on the right.



Earth Day at Forest Park

April 27 • Sunday • 11 a.m.–6 p.m.

(All Ages)

Celebrate the 25th Annual Earth Day in Forest Park! The Missouri Department of Conservation will be there to provide fun educational activities along with so many others. Check out <http://www.stlouisearthday.org/> for more information. (No reservations needed.)

Columbia Bottom Conservation Area

801 Strodtman Road, St. Louis, MO 63138 • mdc.mo.gov/node/298



From I-270 north, take the Riverview Drive exit (last Missouri exit); go north 2.8 miles. Riverview Drive becomes Columbia Bottom Road at its intersection with Larimore Road. The entrance is on the right-hand side.

HOURS:

Building: Wednesday–Friday: 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Saturday–Sunday: 8 a.m.–4 p.m.

Area: One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset except authorized activities.

Programs are free. Call **314-877-6014** to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

Tike Hike: Frogs & Toads

April 10 • Thursday • 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
(Ages 3–5)

Bring your tiny tikes and let them explore our wonderful wetlands! Children will start at the Visitor Center where they learn a little about frogs and toads. We will then head out to one of our many pools and give the tikes a chance to hear, see and maybe catch some of our jumpy residents. Come prepared to get muddy. (Reservations begin March 27.)

Wetlands by Moonlight

April 11 • Friday • 6:30–8 p.m.

(Ages 7 and up)

The wetlands at Columbia Bottom Conservation Area serve as a great example of how the Missouri Department of Conservation works to sustain healthy forest, fish, and wildlife. As the most productive ecosystems in the world, wetlands provide places for reproduction as well as food and homes for countless species. Join us and discover the sights and sounds of life in the wetlands as we walk by the light of the nearly full moon. Dress for the weather and wear shoes or boots that can get muddy. Meet at the Visitor Center to car pool to the hike site. (Reservations begin March 28.)



Preparing Fillets for the Frying Pan

April 12 • Saturday • 10 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

(Ages 10 and up)

Missourians care about conserving forests, fish and wildlife. As a result, Missouri is a great place to hunt and fish. After a successful day of fishing, what do you do with the “big one” that did not get away? Join us as we practice cleaning a few different types of fish. If you have a favorite filleting knife bring it along, or you can use one of ours. Participants under age 16 must be accompanied by an adult. (Reservations begin March 22.)

MDC programs make it easy for Missourians of all ages to discover nature.

August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area

2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304 • mdc.mo.gov/node/300



Wetlands for Kids

April 5 • Saturday • 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

(All Ages)

Learn about wetlands and the critters that call them home at Wetlands for Kids. See live birds of prey, create wetland artwork, explore a beaver lodge, practice air rifle and archery skills, view live snakes and turtles or watch retriever dogs in action. Visit more than 15 stations to learn about nature. (No reservations necessary.)

Amphibian Night Hike

April 12 • Saturday • 7–9:30 p.m.

(Adults)

April 19 • Saturday • 7–9:30 p.m.

(Families)

Witness a “marsh concert” presented by the toads and frogs of Missouri. Hike the levies at Marias Temps Clair Conservation Area and learn to identify frogs and toads by their calls while they survive in the marsh habitat. Effort = Mild. Two mile, night hike on flat, gravel top levies. (Reservations begin March 28.)

Morel Mushroom Hunting for Beginners

April 10 • Thursday • 1–3 p.m.

(Adults)

Learn to identify, locate, and collect one of the most delicious mushrooms in Missouri... the more! Effort = Moderate. Short distance, off-trail hiking through forest. Please dress for the weather. (Reservations begin March 27.)

Camping for Kids

April 26 and 27 • Saturday • 9 a.m.–
Sunday • noon

(Families ages 4–10)

Have fun learning tips and tricks to tent camp with kids. Try camp cooking, learn camp safety and enjoy naturalist programs. Attendance at a planning meeting by at least one family member is mandatory Thursday, April 17, 6:30–7:30 p.m. to sort equipment and check out materials. (Reservations begin April 3.)

Scout Discovery Table: Bird ID and Flyways

April 26 • Saturday • 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

(All ages)

Learn to identify mounted and live birds and figure out where migration highways are in the sky. Activity meets several Boy Scout and Girl Scout requirements. (No reservations necessary. Attend at any point during the four hour period.)



From I-64/40 take Hwy 94 south to Hwy D; turn west on D for approximately two miles. The area entrance is on the north side of Hwy D.

HOURS:

Building: Monday–Friday: 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Area: Daily: 4 a.m.–10 p.m.

Programs are free. Call **636-441-4554** to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

Backpacking at Meramec State Park

April 12 and 13 • Saturday • 10 a.m.–
Sunday • 4 p.m.

Check out the Rockwoods Reservation page for a unique backpacking experience offered by the naturalists from Busch and Rockwoods!



Rockwoods Reservation

2751 Glencoe Road, Wildwood, MO 63038 • mdc.mo.gov/node/272



From I-44 take Hwy 109 north 4 miles to Woods Avenue; left on Woods Avenue, then immediately right on Glencoe Road. From Manchester Road take Hwy 109 south 2 miles to Woods Avenue; right on Woods Avenue, then immediately right on Glencoe Road.

HOURS:

Building: Monday–Friday: 8 a.m.–5 p.m.
Area: Sunrise to one-half hour after sunset except authorized activities.

Programs are free. Call **636-458-2236** to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

Morel Mushroom Hunting for Beginners

April 8 • Tuesday • 1–3 p.m.

(Adults)

Learn to identify, locate, and collect one of the most delicious mushrooms in Missouri... the morel! Effort = Moderate. Short distance, off-trail hiking through forest. (Reservations begin March 25.)



Spring Hike on the Trail Among the Trees

April 12 • Saturday • 1–3 p.m.

(All Ages)

Spend a beautiful spring afternoon hiking the Trail Among the Trees. We'll look for spring wildflowers and learn the unique Rockwoods history from over 100 years ago. Effort = Moderate. Paved and natural surface hiking, 1.5 miles up and down forested hills. (Reservations begin March 28.)

Backpacking at Meramec State Park

April 12 and 13 • Saturday • 10 a.m.–
Sunday • 4 p.m.

(Ages 12 and up)

Calling all new backpackers! Hit the Wilderness Trail at Meramec State Park. Bring your own equipment or borrow ours free of charge. Attendance by at least one family member is mandatory on Thursday, April 3, from 6:30–8 p.m. for a pre-trip training. Effort = Strenuous. Backpacking is physically and mentally demanding. Please do not join this program if you have health concerns, or are not comfortable lifting heavy loads or hiking long miles. You will be expected to provide your own food and carry all of your supplies. (Reservations begin March 20.)



Nature Explorers: Trees

April 17 • Thursday • 10–11:30 a.m.

(Ages 3–6)

Calling all intrepid explorers! What makes a tree a tree? Why are they important? Spend a fun morning exploring and learning about Missouri's beautiful trees. (Reservations begin April 3.)

Goodness Snakes Alive

April 18 • Friday • 9:30–11 a.m.

(Ages 4–6)

Are snakes really slimy? How do they move, smell, hear, and eat? Learn about the amazing lives of snakes, observe, and even touch a live snake. Please dress for the weather for a short walk outdoors. (Reservations begin April 4.)

Snakes and Lizards, Awesome or What?

April 19 • Saturday • 9:30–11 a.m.

(Ages 7–12)

Snakes and lizards are amazing reptiles! Discover the unique and interesting lives of snakes and lizards. Observe and even touch live reptiles. Please dress for the weather for a short walk outdoors. (Reservations begin April 4.)